





## THE COST OF BRITISH FORTIFICATION.

A balance-sheet has just been issued on the cost of our fortifications. Hitherto we have spent close upon seven millions (26,937,910). By far the largest sum expended at any one place was at Portsmouth, where close upon three millions has been spent—£1,493,493 for land and clearance and £1,246,400 for fortifications, making a total of £1,493,493. Portsmouth is third on the list, with less than £400,000. A sum of £377,836 was spent in providing and fixing iron shields. These present figures are signed by the Accountant-General of the Army, who rejoices in the poetic name of John Milton.

## AFFAIRS IN THE CITY.

The *Economist* says:—A comparatively quiet feeling has succeeded to the agitations of last week; and although there is still a great absence of business, the reaction from last week's fall, which was so violent, has been very much mitigated. Large re-purchases have obviously been made by operators for the fall, which are the more significant on the eve of the account, while support has, no doubt, been otherwise given to the markets, in spite of the circumstances that may speculative capitalists, who usually buy largely when prices are under the average, had previously come to believe that large purchases had been made. The market, in some instances, we believe, also, there has been a reaction in public feeling, and certain classes of investors have been tempted to take the risks of the depreciated stocks. This improved tone has been stimulated by the apparently less threatening character of the Bosnian-instruction and by the circulation, authoritatively, of a statement to the effect that the Emperor had been fully satisfied that Italy had been represented in some quarters, though also proving that the fair promises made when the Egyptian 1873 loan was floated have not been kept. These remarks apply mainly, of course, to the foreign market, which absorbed all the interest last week. English railways and other markets have reflected from time to time the movements of the foreign market, but generally the tone has been steady, the latest dividends and reports being all of a favourable kind.

## MONTENEGRIN OF WOMEN.

The special correspondent of the *Standard*, in his report, "Rivalry in the Balkans," gives the following description of the throne-room of the late King Prince Nikola:

It is a moderately large, elegantly-furnished apartment, with red hangings, carved arm-chairs, velvet ottomans, chandeliers and a piano forte. The walls of the room are almost covered with the portraits of European Sovereigns, mostly gifts from the latter, but those of the Czars Nicolas and Alexander occurred frequently.

None of the portraits of the reigning Princes and Princesses, and that of the interesting Princess Danika, the widow of the deceased Prince Danilo. They were painted by Jaroslaw Czernak, the only Slavonian expert Master, to the P. C., who has attained to eminence in painting. Czernak, a functional Slave, presented the portraits to the King. That of the late King Danilo is the best, and it is with effect on the beholder; in his countenance there is the wild Oriental beauty of Byron's Haidas or Medora, refined by cultivation of mind and heart. Princess Milana is now about twenty-seven years old, a beautiful woman with a true Slavonian complexion, and the only one addicted to washing. In reference to this last, the correspondent adds, "I am afraid that the countenance of the Empress, which is clean, is not to be equalled in beauty to that of the women never. The doctrine that cleanliness is next to godliness has yet to be taught in these regions."

PIRACY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

A daring act of piracy of Cape de Gata is recorded in the *General Chronicle* of the 21st August. For very many years the coast of the Mediterranean has been infested by pirates, who have been found from which bands of pirates bent to prey upon innocent merchant shipping, but the haunts of these pirates were solely on the African coast. The destruction of their headquarters, and the introduction of fresh crusades, put a stop, however, to this commercial scourge, and only a few instances have occurred since 1830. We are told that the piratical organization for robbery and murder, which once infested the waters of the Mediterranean, has now broken out on the opposite coast, for we have to relate to-day an outrage of as daring and piratical a nature, committed in these civilized times, as was ever accomplished by the professional robbers of the African borders. Captain H. Young, the British Consul at Tripoli, and his Pleiades, a Widowers, which put in here, after a long absence, made the following deposition on oath before the Senior Naval Officer, Captain of the Port:—On the 16th of August, while on his voyage from Trieste to Rio Grande do Sul, and when two miles off Cape de Gata, a Spanish boat ranged alongside with a crew of seven men, offering to sell fruit and vegetables. The master refused to take anything, whereupon the crew, armed with cutlasses, cut and dagger, jumped on board the schooner, and threatened to murder the crew if they resisted. The crew of the schooner, six in number, took refuge in the rigging, but the master remained at the wheel, and one of the pirates, presenting a revolver at his breast, demanded the surrender of some of the cargo, or otherwise be threatened to kill him. The master offered half a barrel of flour, and the pirates, who were ordered down from the rigging, the mate was taking this out of the steerage-room, when the pirates broke open the fore-hatch and took out 14 barrels of flour, which they forced the crew to assist in transferring to the feluccas, on which they embarked and made off, rowing straight for the land, but before doing so hung on board the schooner a few bunches of grapes and some raisins.

## COURTIALS WILL OF A DEPOSED GERMAN PRINCE.

The will, dated December 3rd, 1856, with one codicil dated May 22nd, 1872, of his Royal Highness Friedrich Wilhelm, Elector and Sovereign Landgrave of Hesse, who died at Prague, in Bohemia, on January 6th last, was proved at the principal registry of the Court of Justice in Berlin, on the 21st August, before the Notary Public, Alexander Rothschild, acting under power of attorney from Prince Moritz Philipp Heinrich of Hanau, one of the sons of the deceased, and one of the residuary legatees named in the codicil, the personal estate (in England) being worth under £35,000.

After making provision for his wife, he appoints as his heirs his children—Highnesses Prussia and Frederick of Hesse, and his children, his children, as substitutes. The testator's life was insured for a sum amounting together to £200,000 in six English offices, viz., the Atlas, Pelican, Eagle, Alliance, Imperial, and Union. In the will, the will, which was made after the war between Prussia and Austria, the testator states that "it should be God's will that we should profit by this war for the sake of our country, for the sake of our wives and sons in our country by Prussia, he directs that his body shall, notwithstanding, be interred in the soil inherited by Prince Moritz Philipp Heinrich of Hanau, one of the sons of the deceased, and one of the residuary legatees named in the codicil, the personal estate (in England) being worth under £35,000. 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## Extracts.

## THE PILGRIMS OF THE PLAINS.

By JOAQUIN MILLER.  
They climbed the rock-built breasts of earth,  
The Titan-framed, bony slope,  
And the sun, in his noon, keeps  
Her flat of white-thorn stars unfurled.  
They turned about, they saw the birth  
Of robes drawn upon a world,  
Again they gazed; they saw the face  
Of God, and named it boundless space.

And they descended and did roam  
Through level distance set round  
By rocks. They saw the silence  
Of the earth, the silence of the stars.  
And heard them fall like silent seas,  
On unrued heights thick-blown and brown,  
And torn like battlements of Mars;  
They saw the darkness come down,  
Like curtains drawn from the dome  
Of God's cathedral, built of stars.

They saw the sawy mountains rolled  
As if the hand of the handmaiden had  
Like mighty bellows, the wild  
Of wild sounds, gave the blast  
Of Heaven when the day set down,  
And hid his face in dusky hands;  
Then pitched the tent, where rivers ran  
As if to follow the sun.

The long and lonesome night, the tent  
That nestled soft in sweep of grass;  
The stars that shone in firmament;  
Where none upon whom could pass;  
The cautious camp, the smothered light;  
The silent sentinel at night!

The wild bracts howling from the hill;  
The troubled earth bellowing;  
The savage spring by the spring;  
The sudden passing swift and still;  
The arrow east, the spear apart;  
And buried it in bloody place;  
The dead lay on the face!

The clouds of dust, their cloud by day,  
The pilar of smoke, their smoke by night;  
They climbed to high it seemed Heaven;  
That they met the falling moon.  
They shone like stars—lit by  
Threw down before their way.

They learned to read the sign of storms,  
The moon's wide circles, sunred bars,  
And storm-provoking blood and flame;  
And like the children shepherds said,  
All in the world, the stars;  
In the horizon, scattered stars;  
Of boats and tides of the sea;  
And marked the Great Bear weekly  
Rip up and drag his clicking chain  
Of stars around the stony main.

N. Y. Independent.

## SPIRIT RIFLE PRACTICE.

The papers contain an account of a so-called elaborate investigation of a materialised spirit, which recently took place in St. Louis. The medium was one W. C. Clark, who pretends that he has a hand of thirty-two disembodied spirits about him, some of which he can materialise by theodic or mesmeric force in him. During this materialisation, the medium was tied up in a closet, and the room darkened; when, after a little while, a curtain was withdrawn, exposing a part of the interior of the closet, in which then the ghost or materialised spirit was seen. As it was suspected that, in this case, the same kind of deception was employed as in the Katie King affair, namely, that a real person of flesh and blood acted the rôle of the spirit, it was suggested that a crucial test would be to fire at the spirit with a loaded musket, as a real spirit could not be hurt by such an experiment. Mr. Clark having asserted that his materialised spirits were no deceptions, but real spirits, and could stand a test, he received from an able marksmen the following challenge:—

"St. Louis, Aug. 4, 1875.—Mr. Clark: Dear Sir.—Having attended a scone given by you, and having seen the wonderful materialisation, I will give you fifty dollars to produce one face at the aperture, if you will let me, or any person I may name, fire a shot at it with a rifle. If it is a spirit face it cannot hurt it, and it will satisfy me it is not you with a mark on your face. My conditions are that you will disrobe yourself and put on clothes I shall produce, and permit me to fasten you to the bottom of the cabinet." Yours respectfully, Henry Timken." This was accepted by Mr. Clark. On the appointed evening, August 8, he was dressed in all clothing, and other clothes brought by Mr. Timken were put on him; he was tied down to the bottom of the cabinet by ropes passed through holes; a black curtain covered a window at which the ghost was to appear; the window was located on one side of the medium; the strings to open this curtain were placed within reach of Mr. Clark. The cabinet was closed and the lights turned down; and after a period of painful stillness, the medium asked the audience to sing, and they did so with a will. After they had finished several songs, a loud knocking was heard, which slowly became more gentle, and then ceased. After three quarters of an hour, during which nothing happened but an occasional spasmodic knock, a painful cry was heard in the cabinet; the black curtain was withdrawn, and a face appeared at the window. It was that of a girl with blue eyes and brown hair. The face was instantly seen by all present, and is described as having fixed features and other characteristics of a mask. "Fire," said the voice of Mr. Clark in the cabinet; and Mr. Timken, who had before pointed his rifle at the centre of the window, pulled the trigger, and the ball passed through the face and lodged in the back partition of the cabinet; while the face remained at the window unmoved for about a minute longer, when it was concealed by the black curtain, which was drawn over the opening.

The account is very minute in details about the inspection of the cabinet, and the ropes with which the medium was tied; and it especially reports all which the latter said concerning his fatigue and the emanations from his own spirit and the other spirits he controls; but no means appear to have been taken to get hold of the mask, which was doubtless the thing used.

The same parties (the Howes), who exhibited the Katie King materialisation in Philadelphia, were recently exposed in Brooklyn, where a company of spiritualists themselves found out the deceptive practised by masks, which were exhibited before a curtain window, as at St. Louis. Such a mask, of course, would not be hurt much by a ball, but there are other more scientific and refined methods of practising these deceptions, such as optical contrivances, which can be made to give images which are perfectly visible and totally inimitable.

Any one who has seen the perfect illusions produced by the stereopticon, which is no thing but an improved magic lantern, or with the stereoscope, by which the perfect image of solid bodies may be thrown on smoke, vapour, or dust, can understand that the so-called materialisation trick can be easily performed by such means. Such an image falling on a black curtain is invisible, but on a white translucent smoke its resemblance to a real body is such that it is next to impossible to distinguish it, except by an investigation during the exhibition of the image, the investigator placing his head in the opening, and looking around to see where the machine is from which the light forming the image proceeds.

Persons unacquainted with these and similar resources of physical science, which are increased in number and improved almost daily, are, of course, utterly incompetent to investigate the means by which tricks of this kind are practised, and their conclusions as to the absence of any deception are of no account whatever. The above is only one of many illustrations of cases where the nature of the deceptions remain undiscovered, simply from the deficiency of knowledge and acuteness of those witnessing the performance.—*Scientific American*.

## MR. GLADSTONE'S MOTHER.

In one of Sir Frederic Murchison's journals the following notice occurs:— "Old John Gladstone's wife was the dearest friend of Henry Leo says:—So far as barnacles were concerned, I had been sent as completed on a wild-goose chase as if I had gone in quest of the 'barnacle geese,' of which the said cirripedes were once supposed to be the embryonic form. There were certainly traces of a few barnacles (*Balanus tintinnans*, apparently) near the level of the water line, especially about the sternpost and between it and the rudder; and the latter itself, as well as the rest of the hull usually submerged, was, and with an enormous multitude of mussels, clustered together in one dense and continuous deposit, extending over a surface of 32,000 square feet of iron plates, and in some parts six inches thick. Mr. Beckwith had made a calculation, which I was able to verify with him, of the total weight of the mussels thus accumulated. It was found by careful experiment that the average weight of those on each square foot was from 12 lb. to 13 lb.; therefore the vessel was encumbered with not less than three hundred tons of living marine animals adhering to her—mussel, in fact, to load with full cargo two ordinary collier brigs! Although the mere weight of this mass would not, perhaps, much affect the buoyancy of a vessel of 25,000 tons burthen, it will be readily understood that the friction of such a rough, jagged indentation passing through the water would materially diminish her speed. As these adherents were scraped off with shovels by workmen employed under contract to remove them, they were carried away by carloads and boatloads, and buried along the shore of the haven. In some localities they would have been heartily welcomed by the fisherman as valuable bait. So completely had the mussels taken possession of every inch of plate-surface, to the exclusion of almost every other living thing that there was nothing fit for exhibition in aquaria—but some plumpish anemones (*Actinia diaphana*) of the three varieties—orange, white, and olive—figs of which had attached themselves in some places to the outer layer of the crowded bivalves. These were, I found, the barnacles of which I had been told."

THE GREAT EASTERN STEAMSHIP.  
—Writing in *Land and Water* respecting the hull of the Great Eastern steamship, Mr. Henry Leo says:— "So far as barnacles were concerned, I had been sent as completed on a wild-goose chase as if I had gone in quest of the 'barnacle geese,' of which the said cirripedes were once supposed to be the embryonic form. There were certainly traces of a few barnacles (*Balanus tintinnans*, apparently) near the level of the water line, especially about the sternpost and between it and the rudder; and the latter itself, as well as the rest of the hull usually submerged, was, and with an enormous multitude of mussels, clustered together in one dense and continuous deposit, extending over a surface of 32,000 square feet of iron plates, and in some parts six inches thick. Mr. Beckwith had made a calculation, which I was able to verify with him, of the total weight of the mussels thus accumulated. It was found by careful experiment that the average weight of those on each square foot was from 12 lb. to 13 lb.; therefore the vessel was encumbered with not less than three hundred tons of living marine animals adhering to her—mussel, in fact, to load with full cargo two ordinary collier brigs! Although the mere weight of this mass would not, perhaps, much affect the buoyancy of a vessel of 25,000 tons burthen, it will be readily understood that the friction of such a rough, jagged indentation passing through the water would materially diminish her speed. As these adherents were scraped off with shovels by workmen employed under contract to remove them, they were carried away by carloads and boatloads, and buried along the shore of the haven. In some localities they would have been heartily welcomed by the fisherman as valuable bait. So completely had the mussels taken possession of every inch of plate-surface, to the exclusion of almost every other living thing that there was nothing fit for exhibition in aquaria—but some plumpish anemones (*Actinia diaphana*) of the three varieties—orange, white, and olive—figs of which had attached themselves in some places to the outer layer of the crowded bivalves. These were, I found, the barnacles of which I had been told."

THE WONDERS OF WOOING.

In olden times it was the fashion for a suitor to go down on his knees to a lady when he asked her to become his wife, which, with very stout gentlemen, was an uncomfortable proceeding. The way in which Daniel Webster proposed to Miss Fletcher was more modern, being at the same time neat and polite. Like many other lovers he was caught holding a skein of thread or wool which the lady had been unravelling. "Grace," said he, "we have been untangling knots. Let us see if we cannot tie one which will not untie in a lifetime." With a piece of tape he fastened half a true-lover's knot, Miss Fletcher perched it, and kiss put the seal to the symbolical bargain. Most men when they "pop" by writing are more straightforward and matter-of-fact. Richard Steele wrote to the lady of his heart:— "Dear Mistress 'Soubi' (there were no misses in those days), 'am tired of calling you by that name; therefore say a day when you will take that of madam.' Your devoted, humble servant, Richard Steele." She fixed the day accordingly, and Steele her name instead of her heart to the suitor. The well-known brothers, Jacob and William Grimm, were much attached to each other, and had no desire to be married.

But it was thought proper by their friends that our of them should become a husband, and Jacob being the elder, it was agreed that he should be the one to enter the bonds of matrimony. A suitable lady was found, but Jacob declined to do the curting, requesting William to act as his agent. William consented, but soon found he was in love, and wanted the lady himself. He could not think, however, of depriving his brother of such a trust, and knew not how to act. An aunt delivered him from his difficulty by telling Jacob who willingly resigned the damsel, and went out of the way until she had been made Mrs. William Grimm.

THE SENSE OF HUMOR IN BRUTES.  
—Several years ago I used to watch carefully the young orang-outang at the Zoological Gardens, and I am quite sure that she manifested a sense of the ludicrous. Our English Henry, it appears, considered critically, was rather an affectionate husband than otherwise; and all the crudities imputed to Mary of England, the naughtiness attributed to Mary of Scotland, the pugnaciousness associated with the name of Catherine de Medici by M. Du Masse, the treacheries laid to the charge of Napoleon by Sir Walter Scott, and the perversity of Jeffreys himself, or even Scrooge, may hope for a reversal of the historical, attaining a thing all the more possible in an age which despises that Joan of Arc was ever burnt at all; that William Tell ever existed; that an Emperor ever picked up Titian's paint, that Ravallier assassinated Henry IV, and that our Queen Eleanor ever poisoned my Rosemary Clifford.

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THE ARAB BIBLE.  
—To form a judgment on Mohammed we must read his book, *Al Koran*. To that no one appealed, when asked to work miracles as a sign of his mission; to that the Arab point to-day, is a standing miracle, acting the world to produce its effects.

We are told by all Arab that the Koran is the most perfect poetry, in the Arabic language, and yet no one seems to read it as translated into English. In this work, the declaration of the astrologer Ily, "ye intimacy of ye English nation?" Holt, in his work on the law, declares that to erect a miniature gallows over a grave is libel. —*St. James's Magazine*.

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What animals are always seen at funerals?—Black cats.

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